

NEW YORK

HERALD TRIBUNE Approved For Release 1999/09/07 : CIA-RDP75

# U. S. Espionage Activities Held Morally Imperative

COPYRIGHT

Strategic intelligence in today's world is a vital necessity in the making of "informed decisions" and work in that area is not by any means limited to the countries considered potential enemies, according to James B. Donovan, general counsel to the Office of Strategic Services during World War II.

In an article titled, "Why We Must Spy," appearing in the current issue of "America," national Catholic weekly review, Mr. Donovan writes:

"Its specific objective is to ascertain not only the potential capabilities of every other nation but also their intentions toward the United States.... The men responsible for planning our national policy... must be informed on the probable effect of a Labor party victory at a general election in Great Britain, the degree of Communist influence in the Castro regime in Cuba, and the probable effects upon international relations of a war between Israel and the Arab world."

The author, who was the court-appointed attorney for the convicted Soviet spy, Rudolf Ivanovich Abel, does not defend the specific "spy plane" incident which precipitated the debacle in Paris. He does express surprise that the existence of an intelligence net should "shock and bewilder" so many Americans.

An editorial in the same issue of "America" speaks of "the unreasoning outburst of moral indignation in some circles at home" and says that this "involves a failure to grasp the essential justification of any espionage."

"Intelligence activity is morally instances a moral imperative," the editorial continues.

M. Donovan believes that spies "will always be used" but that "contrary to popular understanding, the great bulk of the most important intelligence is not obtained by secret espionage, but by overt means."

#### Data From Newspapers

To support this statement, he says that "we obtained 'vital data' during World War II simply by studying German newspapers sent to neutral countries. Similarly, today, "we may be certain" that Soviet intelligence has free access to many reports and all sorts of technical and non-technical publications circulated freely at home and abroad.

A highly developed system



James B. Donovan

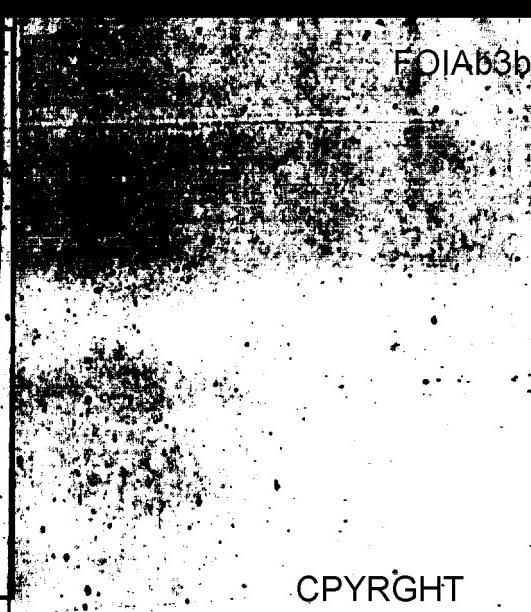
we have been the unwitting teachers, the Russians have been apt pupils."

Thus, in the vital field of intelligence, the United States faces a dilemma. By its very nature, a democracy cannot keep "large bodies of information" secret.

#### U. S. Is Handicapped

Communist nations, on the other hand, are under no such handicap; they can publish or withhold whatever they please. To keep up in this race for information, the United States must engage in espionage to obtain what Soviet agents can get by walking to the nearest magazine store or newsstand.

That being the case, it is not strange that "the Central Intelligence Agency, although formally established only in 1947, today has more employees and a greater total appropriation of funds than the State Department."



COPYRIGHT

COPYRIGHT

